SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

20th Sunday Ordinary Time (B) **18th August 2024**

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK, CARMELITE CHURCH
41 KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET, LONDON W8 4BB

Web: www.carmelitechurch.org Email: enquiries@carmelitechurch.org
Tel. 0207 937 9866 Mobile: 0770 8203 595
@kensingtoncarmelitechurch on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

Mass Times Sundays: Vigil (Sat.) 6.00 p.m., 8.30 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.
Weekdays (including Bank Holidays): 8.00 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.
Livestream *(All Masses)*: www.carmelitechurch.org & YouTube: "Kensington Carmelite Church"
Confessions: Sat: 11.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. & 5.00 - 5.50 p.m. Weekdays: 5.40 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
Priests in the Parish: Fr Thaddeus Ekuma, Fr Matt Blake, Fr Tijo Xavier, Fr John Williamson, Fr Kelvin Ekhoegbe, Fr Joseph Odiahi
Safeguarding Rep: Franca Bren

Reflection

My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of God

Last Thursday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. What this really means is the taking up of our Blessed Mother's body and soul into heaven. As we all celebrate the resurrection and ascension of Our Lord, this gift to Mary should not surprise us – that she should share the unity of body and soul with her divine Son after her earthly life. In rejoicing at this generosity of God to Mary, we anticipate the joy of our own moment when, through God's generosity, our souls will be reunited with our heavenly bodies. This joy and hope is what Mary celebrated in her song of praise to God, and with her we sing that song today.

'My soul proclaims the greatness of God.' This song of Mary not only expresses her joy but also the joy of God and our own joy. Mary's joy proceeds from her trust in the generosity of God. Notice that it is her trust, her ability to spot the greatness of God, that caused this joy to well up in her heart. The context of Mary's song, as the gospel narrates, is her visitation to Elizabeth whom she was told had conceived a child after over 60 years of barrenness. Like Mary, Elizabeth is also a woman of acute attentiveness to the generosity of God. As soon as she saw Mary arrive at her place, she recognized her as the 'mother of my Lord.' She was the first person to recognize Mary as such. What followed was the sharing of joy between these two women leading to Mary's song of joy.

If we look a little closer at Mary's song we can begin to appreciate her joy at the generosity of God. The song has a litany of reversals: the lowly handmaid is exalted for all generations; the powerful are pulled down from their thrones while the lowly are exalted; the hungry are filled while the rich are sent away empty, etc. Ultimately, God is one who comes to the aid of his servant Israel in fulfilment of his promise.

In Mary's song, we also find expressed the joy of God. God's own joy (his greatness) lies in his generosity which ensures that those who trust and hope in him are blessed and exalted. His mercy visits those who wait for him and he fulfils the promise he makes to them. In other words, God in his greatness never fails us. But it requires the sort of heart and eyes of Mary and Elizabeth to hope and wait for God's fulfilment of his promise and to spot it when it arrives. Mary sings of our God, the faithful one.

Then she also expresses our own joy which lies in our hope of unification with God at the end of our life on earth. Mary's assumption into heaven is God's assurance to us of our own destiny. Even while in this world, God prepares us for that union by providing what we need for our earthly journey. Pope Francis writes that 'On the cross, Christ led us to Mary, and He brought us to her because he did not want us to journey without a mother' (*Evangelii Gaudium*). As for Mary's role as our Mother, Pope Francis, reflecting on the wedding feast at Cana, also writes, 'She is the friend who is ever concerned that wine not be lacking in our lives. She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands all our pain. As mother of all, she is a sign of hope for peoples suffering the birth pangs of justice. She is the missionary who draws near to us and accompanies us through life, opening our hearts to faith by her maternal love. As a true mother, she walks at our side, she shares our struggles, and she constantly surrounds us with God's love' (*Evangelii Gaudium*).

Therefore, although our world remains in great pain – with the pandemic still raging, fires and floods rendering millions of people homeless, ravages of war and hatred destroying lives and relationships – when we open the eyes of our hearts, like Mary, we are able to see the generosity of God. Let us, together with Mary, continue to sing of the greatness of God, thanking God for the gift of Mary's assumption – a foreshadowing of his gift to us at the end of our life.

NOTICES

To follow the Mass Readings on your phone, please scan the QR Code:

WE SAY GOODBYE TO FR TIJO AND FR KELVIN

Fr Tijo and Fr Kelvin have been posted to other Carmelite communities outside England to continue their service. Fr Tijo to Ireland and Fr Kelvin to serve in Rome. We thank them for their contributions to our parish and our community here in Kensington. We say goodbye them and wish them well as they take on new responsibilities in their respective Communities. Please join us for tea after the 12.15 Mass to say goodbye to them.

A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

The Columban Missionaries gratefully acknowledge your support during their annual mission appeal last Sunday. The sum of £1,245.80 was raised for their mission last Sunday.

Thank you very much.

FEASTDAYS THIS WEEK

Tue 20th	**St Bernard (Abbo, Doctor of the Church)**
Wed 21st	**St. Pius X (Pope)**
Thurs 22nd	**Our Lady, Mother and Queen**
Sat 24th	**St Bartholomew (Apostle)**

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH AND ADULT CONFIRMATION

Registration is open for any adult who wishes to be become a Catholic or be received into the Catholic church. Also any adult Catholic who is not yet confirmed and wishes to receive the sacrament of Confirmation should make contact through enquiries@carmelitechurch.org

You may make your offering or donation by scanning this QR Code with your mobile phone
Thank you and God bless!

Collections Last Sunday:

Offering	£1431
Gift Aid Envelopes	£211

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus